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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Burma

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SUBJECT Celebration of "Women's Day" in Rangoon

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1. "Women's Day" was celebrated in Rangoon on 8 March 1951 by two different groups. The first was the All Burma Chinese Women's Federation, which is an organization subordinate to the China Democratic League (Burma). At this celebration about 800 are said to have been present, including the wife of the Chinese Ambassador, other women from the Chinese Embassy, and the Chinese Consul General, LI Ping. A representative from the Burma Women's Freedom League was also present.
2. Among the speakers were Consul General LI Ping, who called on Burma-Chinese women to join the women of their mother country in struggling to resist America, aid Korea, protect the home, and defend the country. Finally the whole gathering shouted in unison pro-Chinese Communist slogans.
3. In the evening there was a reception at the Chinese Embassy for the occasion in which further speakers emphasized the importance of the "Resist America, Aid Korea" movement.
4. A separate celebration was staged by the Burma Women's Freedom League in which the principal speaker was Daw MA MA LAY*. Towards the end of the meeting Daw IYA TIN* led the assembly in making vows for the preservation of world peace, the prevention of aggression and colonialism, and the emancipation of women.
5. Among the various resolutions passed was one deciding that Women's Day would be celebrated regularly in the future.

25X1A* Comment. Daw MA MA LAY and Daw MYATIN are both prominent personalities of the Burma Women's Freedom League, formed by the group of women which defected from the Anti-Fascist Peoples Freedom League when the Burma Workers' and Peasants' Party was formed. This is the first occasion on which Burmese women have celebrated "Women's Day" and there can be little doubt that their main source of inspiration was the Chinese.

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